

# TRAIL & *Landscape*

A PUBLICATION CONCERNED WITH  
NATURAL HISTORY AND CONSERVATION

THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB



# Trail & Landscape

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## The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Founded 1879

### President

Daniel F. Brunton

**Objectives of the Club:** To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage, to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse information on these fields as widely as possible, to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things

**Club Publications:** THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, devoted to publishing research in natural history; TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a non-technical publication of general interest to local naturalists; THE SHRKE, a local bimonthly newsletter, is available by separate subscription.

**Field Trips, Lectures** and other natural history activities are arranged for local members. See 'Coming Events' in this issue.

**Membership Fees:** Individual (yearly) \$13

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# Welcome, New Members

## Ottawa Area

Dr. & Mrs. G.C. Aers	Grace K. Lonergan & family
A. Alexander	Lynda Maltby
Ross & Katherine Anderson	Mable E. McNaughton
Bonnie A. Campbell	Heather Mitchell
Anne & Eion Cameron	Arnold Muirhead
Joan Clapham	Joyce Ng-Yelim
Marjorie Clayson & family	Martin H. Potter
Seymour & Shelagh Crandall	George Pretli
K. Frank Crowe	Helen Royce
Ronald Daigle & family	Robert Sauve & family
Peter Demarsh	Edwina Schniedermen
Ian Dobson	Milton Shaffer & family
Philippe Erhard & family	Alina Stahevitch & family
Barry C. Flahey	Arlene & Gavin Stairs
Thomas Gabor	Peggy Smith & family
Frances Gagne	Janine Spitz
William & Alexandra Godwin	Bette Sterne
D.E. Haight & Dr. S.A. Edlund	Bob Stevens & Pam Hickman
Bryan G. Hawley	Elaine R. Stewart
Carol R. Holm	Wanda Teske
Kenneth Hum	Arthur L. Thompson
R.H. Johnston & Susan Hallam	Diana G. Thorp
Dwight Keister	Chris Traynor
Thomas K. Keller & family	Maggie Tucker
Charlotte Kindle	Mr. A. Vogg
Marilyn M. Laidlaw	Grey J. Whalen & family
Charles & Ruth Lapkoff	Ian Whyte & family
Vi Laporte	Brian Worobey
Claude Lemieux & family	

## Other Areas

Andrew Didiuk	
	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
William & Francis Dubs	
	Belle River, Ontario
Dr. W.J.D. Eberlie	
	Colborne, Ontario
Brian Edmonds	
	Calgary, Alberta
Ellen Gasser	
	Calgary, Alberta
Dennis Jelinski	
	Calgary, Alberta

Colin MacKinnon	
	Wolfville, Nova Scotia
James Mountjoy	
	Oshawa, Ontario
Dr. P. Pakarinen	
	Minnesota, U.S.A.
Mrs. Lynda Skene	
	Newmarket, Ontario
John A. Tabak	
	Vancouver, B.C.
Alan Wormington	
	Leamington, Ontario

July, 1982

The Membership Committee

# Help the OFNC Seedathon

The second annual OFNC Seedathon will be held on September 12, 1982. A team of birders will put in a full day's birding with sponsors offering to contribute a pledged amount for each species recorded.

Members of this year's team will be Dan Brunton (829-7307), Bernie Ladouceur (729-9471) and Roger Taylor (731-9270). The team should be able to find at least a hundred species.

The contributions will be used to purchase bird seed for the Club bird feeders, or, if there is money left over, to fund other Club bird activities.

Please send in the pledge form below or the same information on a separate piece of paper, or contact any of the team members.

---

To: Seedathon  
The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club  
Box 3264, Postal Station C  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1Y 4J5

I wish to sponsor the OFNC team at the rate of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
for each bird species identified in the 1982 Seedathon.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Typists: Please lend us a hand!

The *Trail & Landscape* typing team is in urgent need of additional help in preparing the camera-ready copy. If you can use an IBM Selectric typewriter and can spare one evening every few months or even once a year, please join us in the satisfying task of producing *Trail & Landscape*. Call Dorothy Greene at 829-9831, evenings, for further details.

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## New Parks for Ontario?

What do provincial parks in Ontario mean to you? Forget the week-long torrent of rain that destroyed your last canoe trip, or the 500,000 mosquitoes that descended on your campsite every night, and think instead of loons calling on the lake in the evening, of early morning hikes in mature forest, of sunset on a wilderness shore, or of the smell of breakfast at your campsite. Think also of soaring eagles, polar bears, lynx and woodland caribou, creatures that you have probably never met but whose wildness is something that you can easily understand and relate to. Think of wide open spaces, white water rivers and untamed wilderness. This is Ontario, and it is ours to conserve if we act now.

On March 12, Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope announced that 245 candidate parks and nature reserves would be brought forward for public discussion. There is no guarantee that even one of these proposals will be accepted, but if all were to be added to the parks system, the number of parks would triple and the size of the system would double. The crucial decisions on these proposals will be made within months.

This is terrific news for Ontario naturalists. If the proposals are implemented, the Ontario parks system will take on a completeness that was heretofore seriously lacking. But we must act fast to show our support to Mr. Pope and the District Managers.

Recognizing this need for action, several organizations, including the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON), the Canadian Nature Federation and the Sierra Club, have launched a program to alert their members and get people to attend open house discussions in each of the 47 Ministry of Natural Resources districts across the province. By the time you read this, the open house discussions probably will already have taken place. But you can still help by doing three things.

First, write a letter to Mr. Alan Pope, Minister of Natural Resources, Queen's Park, Toronto, and tell him that you believe that a complete parks system in Ontario is very important, that he should retain all existing parks policies (these are under threat of change), and that interim policies for the new parks should prohibit commercial exploitation such as logging, mining, and so forth.

Second, write a letter to your local District Manager (for most of you Mr. Jim Bailey, Ministry of Natural Resources, 10 Findlay Avenue, Carleton Place, Ontario K7C 3Z6) and tell him the same things, and, if you live in the Lanark-Ottawa area,

that you support the addition of all the new nature reserves proposed for the Carleton Place District. (See pages 199-202.)

Third, make a financial donation to the cause. The Thunder Bay Naturalists have issued a challenge to all other clubs federated to the FON. They have donated \$10 per member, a total of \$2000 to the FON to lobby for these new parks in Ontario, and they have challenged other clubs to do likewise. You can help The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club meet that challenge by sending your donation to the Club specifying that it is for New Parks in Ontario. Do it now before you forget. All such donations received will be passed on to the FON and a tax receipt will be issued. If you would rather donate to the FON directly, send it c/o Nancy Patterson, FON Conservation Centre, Moatfield Park, 355 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, Ontario M3B 2W8.

For further information, call President Dan Brunton (829-7307), Conservation Committee Chairman Stephen Gawn (741-8597), or Past President Roger Taylor (731-9270).

Let's hear it for Ontario's new Provincial Parks, something that we can all relate to and that our grandchildren will thank us for.

Roger Taylor

Addresses of Ministry of Natural Resources District Offices:

Algonquin Park District Whitney, Ontario K0J 2M0	(705) 637-2780
Bancroft District Box 500, Bancroft, Ontario K0L 1C0	(613) 332-3940
Brockville, District Box 605, Brockville, Ontario K6V 5Y8	(613) 342-8524
Carleton Place District 10 Findlay Avenue, Carleton Place, Ontario K7C 3Z6 Ottawa residents dial 836-1237	(613) 257-5735
Cornwall District Box 1749, Cornwall, Ontario K6H 5V7	(613) 933-1774
Napanee District 1 Richmond Blvd., Napanee, Ontario K7R 3S3	(613) 354-2173
Pembroke District Box 220, Pembroke, Ontario K8A 6X4	(613) 732-3661
Tweed District Metcalfe St., Tweed, Ontario K0K 3J0	(613) 478-2330

# Soirée Proves Hit Again

Peter Hall

Following the success of the soirée format for the annual Club get-together in 1981, the Excursions and Lectures Committee decided that a good idea deserved a second chance. The crowd that gathered in late April at the Unitarian Church for the 1982 Back-by-Popular-Demand Soirée could only say encore.

The setting for this year's Soirée, in the Friendship Hall of the Unitarian Church with its view over the Ottawa River, matched the mood of attending Club members. Friendship and good cheer were abundant, fueled by the wine and cheese spread served up by hard-working coffee ladies.

The 165 Club members at the Soirée again had the benefit of thought-and-talk-provoking exhibits organized by the Excursions and Lectures Committee. The Botany, Sound Recordings, Butterfly, Art and Photo groups showed off some of the results of their recent activities. The sound recordings group scored a particular hit with its parabolic microphone that allowed members to listen in on conversations on the other side of the room. (Don't worry, Dan, we won't tell anybody what you said.)



*Some Botany Group members, (left to right) Rob Bedford, Ken Taylor, Aileen Mason, Trudy Bedford, Paul Catling and Patricia Narraway, gather by their Soirée display.*  
photo by Chris Schwarzkogler-Taylor

Ellaine Dickson again had people lining up to view her exquisite wildlife sculptures, and George Christie had a display of butterfly photos that attracted much attention. Other prominent Club artists and photographers - Gerhard Lehmann, Karin Lehmann, Margaret Meuffles, Sven Blake - exhibited their work. Jeff Harrison and Jack Holliday had some of their antique wildlife paintings and prints on display.

Special displays were arranged by Stewart Hamill of the National Capital Commission, the Rideau Trail Club and Sharon Gowan, the latter on her work with lichens of Fundy Park.

Charlie Beddoe ran his own private peep show in one corner. Charlie collected slides from Erik Blake, Bill Gummer, Steve Darbyshire, Peter Hall, Karin Lehmann, and Gerhard Lehmann, and added some of his own to delight anyone who wanted to sit and view for a while.

The Macoun Club took its usual prominent place in the evening's events, spurred on by Arnet Sheppard's assistance. A wide range of Macoun Club displays were judged in three categories - art, photography, and collections - by, respectively, Susan Laurie-Bourque, Charlie Beddoe and David Gray. The winners in the junior category were David Manga and Heather Hunt, in the intermediate category Michael Manga and Alexis Letourneau, and in the senior category Erik Blake and Kirk Thorsteinson.



*Kirk Thorsteinson demonstrates his computer wizardry on a plant study for which he won a Macoun Club Award at the Soirée.*  
photo by Chris Schwarzkogler-Taylor

The evening activities built towards the special presentations ceremony in the amphitheatre next to the Friendship Hall. Everybody gathered to hear the words of wisdom (well received by all) from Club President, Dan Brunton, and Excursions and Lectures Chairman, Paul Catling.

The first-ever OFNC award winners were called forth to receive their certificates and prizes. Thomas Manning was the new honorary member named this year, and his nomination was well received by his many friends in the audience. (For further details on these awards, read the following article.)

In a special presentation, Roger Taylor, Past President, was brought to the stage to receive a surprise gift from his friends of a Susan Laurie-Bourque orchid drawing. Roger was almost speechless for once but recovered himself to say that he had wanted one of Susan's drawings for some time.

As the evening began to wind down and the displays and food were being packed up, Cam Osler ended the activities on a high note with a spirited auction of some of the left-over cheeses. I am happy to report that Cam survived and should be available for further merrymaking next year. We hope to see even more of you there then.



*Bruce Di Labio and George McGee swap bird sighting stories.*  
photo by Ken Taylor

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# Honorary Membership and OFNC Awards

Stephen J. Darbyshire  
and members of the Awards Committee

## INTRODUCTION

At this year's Soirée, the four new OFNC awards were presented for the first time, along with the Honorary Membership Award. The four new awards are described in *Trail & Landscape* 15(5): 228-229 (1981) and 16(2): 75 (1982). They were established so that the Club could formally recognize outstanding achievements of Club members in natural history activities. Many members in our Club are very active in various aspects of Club activities; the unselfish support given to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club and its goals by such dedicated people is the backbone of our successful Club. It is hoped that these people, who so richly deserve our recognition, will accept these awards as a symbol of the respect and appreciation with which we all view their activities.

For each of the five awards we now have certificates for presentation to the winners. These certificates are printed on 8½" x 11" paper with a 20% cotton content. Special thanks go to Bill Knight for his superb hand-printing and for his invaluable advice. His experience in printing such documents was very helpful in almost all aspects of the design process as well. Also special thanks to Anne Gruchy, who did the calligraphy on the certificates presented. Brenda Carter has kindly allowed us to use her Great Horned Owl drawing as a background design. Many people, too numerous to name, gave constructive advice in the preparation of the certificates. Many thanks to all those who participated.

## HONORARY MEMBER: Thomas H. Manning

Thomas H. Manning, O.C., has been a member of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club since 1941. In the 1930s and 1940s he surveyed large parts of Canada's Arctic, including Southampton Island, Baffin Island and Repulse Bay, mapping areas by combining ground and air photographic surveys. His vast experience in arctic exploration has been recognized by many organizations. He has served as a consultant to the Defence Research Board, as executive director of the Arctic Institute of North America, and

as leader of various expeditions.

Concurrent with his earlier geographical activities, and increasingly in later years, T.H. Manning has spent much of his life on biological work. He has made large collections of birds and mammals for the National Museum of Natural Sciences and the Royal Ontario Museum. More than fifty of his papers have been published by the National Museum and the Canadian Wildlife Service, a number of these in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*. He continues his prolific biological work and arctic activities today.

He has been given many other distinguished awards recognizing his important contributions to the knowledge of the Canadian Arctic. In 1944 he was awarded the Bruce Medal of the Scottish Geographical Society and the Royal Philosophical Society of Edinburgh. In 1948 he was awarded the Patron's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society. In 1974 he became an Officer in the Order of Canada, and in 1977 he was awarded the Massey Medal of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.



Thomas H. Manning received his honorary membership from President Dan Brunton at this year's Soirée. photo by Chris Schwarzkogler-Taylor

MEMBER OF THE YEAR: Joyce M. Reddoch

At first it seemed like quite a challenge to select one person as Member of the Year because there are so many active and dedicated people in The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. However, after considering the Club objectives (which appear on the inside front cover of each issue of *Trail & Landscape*), the Awards Committee realized that Joyce Reddoch had done more to further these goals than any other member in 1981.

Joyce's conservation activities in the Ottawa area are known and appreciated by most members of the Club, and her knowledge and expertise are also recognized by many people outside the Club. Since she started the Conservation Committee in 1972, Joyce has been working to protect important natural areas in the Ottawa area, and these efforts continued throughout 1981.

During the year, Joyce wrote several articles in *Trail & Landscape*, including two instalments in her series *Conservation Activities*. She also continued her work, with Allan Reddoch, on the production of *Orchids in the Ottawa District*, and she supplied much of the material for the Club's display at the Wetlands Policy Workshop at Carleton University in early January 1982.

As if these activities weren't enough for one person, Joyce also found time to serve as Editor and Production Coordinator of *Trail & Landscape*, one of the best local journals of any natural history club in Canada!

It is fitting, then, that our first Member of the Year is Joyce Reddoch.

SERVICE AWARD: Ellaine M. Dickson

Since joining the Club in 1968, Ellaine has been a very active participant in Club activities, taking as much interest in the Club and its members as in natural history. She maintains the accuracy of both the membership history cards and the mailing list. She has also been involved in the compilation of a list of volunteer work members. Since 1976 Ellaine has generously answered the Club phone and has taken most reservations for Club activities as well as general inquiries by members and non-members.

This year three of Ellaine's beautiful bird carvings were presented to the three winners of the Anne Hanes Natural History Award. She is serving currently on the Council (since 1978) and on both the Membership and the Excursions and Lectures Committee. She has served on the Education and Publicity and the Nominations Committees in the past. Her knowledge of the membership has been invaluable for all the committees she has served with.

Many of Ellaine's activities have been involved with maintaining good communications with the membership for important events. Without a doubt, Ellaine has played a key role in the smooth running of the Club in recent years.

THE ANNE HANES AWARD FOR NATURAL HISTORY: Ross A. Layberry,  
J. Donald Lafontaine and Peter W. Hall

This award is shared by three naturalists, shown below (from left to right Don Lafontaine, Ross Layberry, Peter Hall) receiving their awards from Gary Hanes. Their award is in recognition of the outstanding calibre of their field studies on our local butterflies, which culminated in the publication of *Butterflies in the Ottawa District* in the January-February issue of *Trail & Landscape*. This work represents years of keen field study, discriminating observations and meticulously collected data. While each of the authors has by himself made significant contributions to our knowledge of local butterflies, together the three have produced a landmark publication which will undoubtedly be the standard reference for Ottawa Valley lepidopterists for many years to come. Club members have received their work with great enthusiasm, and the Council takes pleasure in recognizing its excellence with the Anne Hanes Award for Natural History.

The May/June 1982 newsletter of the Lepidopterists' Society, an international society with over 1500 members, includes the following comments in its review of *Butterflies of the Ottawa District*: "This publication ... is an outstanding example of how a local butterfly guide can be put together. ...[It] should serve as a model for local guides being contemplated elsewhere."



photo by Chris Schwarzkogler-Taylor

CONSERVATION AWARD: Albert W. Dugal

In 1975, Albert joined the Conservation Committee, and, although he has not been a committee member since 1980, he has remained very active. Because he has spent many hours in the field around eastern Ontario, he has been a very knowledgeable spokesman for the Club's conservation interests. His main activities have centred on the South Gloucester area, where he has found over 500 plant species including 147 plants of regional significance and several of provincial significance.

Albert has made many presentations to planning groups and other groups of interested citizens. He has served on the Regional Municipality's Citizen's Advisory Committee on Conservation Lands in the southeastern area of Ottawa-Carleton.

As well as his dogged efforts for conservation of the South Gloucester area, Albert has been instrumental in the protection of the Shaw Woods, which the National Museum of Natural Sciences and the Nature Conservancy of Canada have purchased. Albert has lead many groups through these beautiful woods.

Albert has been involved in writing the following *Trail & Landscape* articles and Club reports:

Dugal, A. 1978. *The South Gloucester Conservation Area Revisited*. 12(2): 47-53.

Dugal, A. 1980. *Shaw Woods Nature Preserve*. 14(2): 46-56.

Dugal, A. and J. Reddoch. 1980. *Morris Island*. 14(1): 18-23.

Dugal, A. 1981. *Grooved Yellow Flax a new record for the Ottawa District*. 15(1): 8-12.

Dugal, A. 1982. *Bog Bedstraw in Ottawa District Fens*. 16(3): 126-130.

Dugal, A., A. Reddoch, J. Reddoch. 1978. *The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club's proposal for the retention of the South Gloucester (Blais Road) Conservation Area*.

Dugal, A., A. Reddoch, J. Reddoch, D. White, C. Billington, S. Hamill. 1978. *Response to the Conservation Lands Report of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton*.

Dugal, A. 1980. *South Gloucester Natural Environment Area*. (a presentation to the Township of Gloucester).

Dugal, A. 1981. *South Gloucester Conservation Area update*.

Dugal, A. 1982. *South Gloucester Special Study Area update and summary of significant features*. (includes plant list).

# Recent Bird Sightings



Val Bernard Ladouceur  
Bruce M. Di Labio

There wasn't much to be seen of spring this year. After promising, spring-like weather in early and mid-March, we suffered through five weeks of relentless north winds, which prompted reverse migration among many of the early arrivals. The winter chill didn't cease until near the end of April, but by early May we seemed to be into summer - glorious weather, too nice, in fact, because many of the migrating birds chose not to stop here and continued flying north. We didn't see much of a warbler migration, but warblers could be found on their nesting grounds in the Gatineau later in May. We still had our fair share of highlights this spring, however.

There were two observations of Red-throated Loon this spring, both at Shirleys Bay. The first bird, on April 30, was in breeding plumage, and the second one, on May 6, was in winter plumage.

A Cattle Egret was seen flying over the west end of the city on April 16. Roger Foxall made one of this spring's best finds at Green's Creek with a Glossy Ibis on the afternoon of May 30. This is the first time since 1971 that one of this species remained in one location long enough to be seen by many observers.

Rare waterfowl included unusual numbers of Whistling Swan, with 27 on March 14 in a field south of the Queensway just west of the Carp River, and a flock of 18 flying north over Shirleys Bay on March 24. Ottawa's sixth record (third spring record) of White-fronted Goose was found at Carlsbad Springs by George McGee and party.

Another prize find was a male European Widgeon at Shirleys Bay by Jacques Cantin on April 25. The bird was seen again, this time by many observers, on the 28th.

Other rare spring waterfowl included the sighting of 15 Eider species on April 17 at Shirleys Bay. Two Surf Scoters on April 21 (the first April record) and May 3 at Shirleys Bay and one Black Scoter on May 31 at Ottawa Beach were also recorded. There are only about half a dozen spring records for each of these species.

A Sandhill Crane was frequenting the North Gower - Malakoff area from May 4 until at least mid-June. For the fifth year out of the last seven, Yellow Rails could be heard in Richmond Fen. They were first heard this year on May 15.

Shorebirds, gulls and terns provided plenty of excitement this spring. Five Red Knots were observed at Ottawa Beach on May 23. Richmond Sewage Lagoons had most of the action. From May 14 to 16 a Marbled Godwit and two Hudsonian Godwits were observed. Two more Marbled Godwits appeared on May 23. It was only the fourth spring record for Hudsonian Godwit. The fact that one of the Hudsonians was in full spring plumage and the other was in winter plumage made the occasion doubly interesting. For the third consecutive year, at least one Ruff has been recorded in Ottawa with one appearing on May 19, again at Richmond Sewage Lagoons. This is also the location of Ottawa's first record in 1977.

Interesting gulls included two Iceland Gulls on April 11 at Remic Rapids, one Iceland on May 12 at Britannia, one adult Lesser Black-backed Gull on May 29 at Britannia, and an adult Franklin's Gull on May 27, again at Britannia.

Sightings of rare terns included the fifth record and first May record of Forster's Tern. Two of this species were seen on May 28 at Ottawa Beach. A single Arctic Tern, on May 25, and a Caspian Tern, on May 27, were also observed at Ottawa Beach. Another (the same?) Caspian appeared on May 31 at Deschênes Rapids.

The last of the Hawk Owls was observed on March 12, in the Marchurst area. A Great Gray Owl spent April 21 in Clyde Avenue Woods. An injured Boreal Owl was caught and sent to McKeever's in Vineland, where there is a raptor rehabilitation program, on March 21. Another Boreal Owl was heard on April 11 near Carleton Place.

The Carolina Wren which frequented an Ottawa West feeder was last observed in early April. The rare but regular Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was to be found in Britannia Woods.

Two male Cerulean Warblers were observed singing on May 19, one near Champlain Lookout in Gatineau Park and the other in Rockcliffe Park at The Rockeries. Two Louisiana Waterthrushes appeared on May 31 at Moorside in Gatineau Park, the location of last year's singing male, which at the time was only our second record.

Late records for spring included Barrow's Golden-eye on May 2, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker on May 18, Boreal Chickadee on May 10, Common Redpoll on May 10, Fox Sparrow on May 1, and Lapland Longspur on May 8.

Early dates included Red-necked Grebe on March 25, Great Blue Heron on March 11, Northern Shoveler on March 24, Canvasback on March 16, Oldsquaw on March 31, Ruddy Duck on April 1, American Coot on March 31, Killdeer on March 12, Dunlin on April 24, Water Pipit on March 29, Vesper Sparrow on March 30, and Fox Sparrow on April 1.

Some large number sightings were 60 Red-necked Grebes on May 3, 38 Double-crested Cormorants on May 28, 1400 Brant on May 16, 26 Wilson's Phalarope on the May 23 Spring Count, and over 200 Water Pipits on May 23. There were many other large flocks of this latter species.

Special spring birding events included the Owl Census from March 26 to May 9, which located nine species and over 230 individual owls, and the Spring Census on May 23, on which 29 observers located 180 species.

## Council Report

Bill Gummer

Council had hoped that members of the Club would submit ideas for the object d'art to serve as a trophy for the Anne Hanes Natural History Award, and there is still time to do this. If no satisfactory proposal has been received by November, the Club will consider the wildlife art at the Duck Club Show, and failing that will shop elsewhere in order to have the trophy before the 1983 Soirée.

This is your chance to help in the selection of a suitable trophy for this important award.

In late April, Bill Foster, the Deputy Minister of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, accepted our invitation to come to Ottawa. He visited Stony Swamp and South March areas with Dan Brunton and Roger Taylor for firsthand views of problems there before meeting the Conservation Committee members for further discussions on additional topics.

The Council is grateful for the unusual opportunity to have this meeting, which it considered provided a most useful exchange of viewpoints and information.

---

## Parc de la Gatineau

The turbulent El Greco sky  
threatens gray rain,  
but the yellow woods of the Gatineau  
shine with their own light  
and their wet carpet glows  
along our feet.

You are handing me leaves,  
a spray of bronzed beech,  
the gold and scarlet maple,  
the yellow of the ash that Indians  
pound into strips for baskets.  
You show me the beaver's house  
at the edge of Lac Bourgeois,  
point to outcroppings of marble,  
glacial claw-marks on granite,  
the secret cliff of the delicate  
dancing ferns  
and the pale miracle  
of gilled mushrooms at the forest's  
edge.

The sky begins to fall. We hear  
it dripping from tamaracks,  
from white pines and spruces.  
We taste its wetness on our faces  
and, with handfuls of acorns and coloured  
leaves,  
we start back to the city.

Dorothy Ulrich Trouberskoy

*Father J.-A. Potvin sent along this poem by a fellow naturalist  
who was inspired by a visit with him to Gatineau Park last fall.*

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## Kaladar Moth Wars A Pyrrhic Victory?

The first skirmish has been fought in what may become a prolonged war between environmentalists and the Ontario government. The issue is the aerial spraying of forests for the gypsy moth.

The gypsy moth has been present in Ontario since 1969 but did little damage until 1981 when widespread defoliation occurred in an area along Highway 7 in the vicinity of Kaladar, about 160 km west of Ottawa. Large numbers of egg masses survived the cold of last winter below the snow line with the result that there was a large hatch of voracious larvae this past spring.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, fearing a massive spread of the moth larvae from this epicentre of infestation, decided to spray the area with Sevin (a brand name of an insecticide with the generic name of carbaryl). Because 70% of the 1000 hectares of land involved was privately owned, the land-owners' permission would be required to spray their property. The compliance of the municipality and its assistance in obtaining this permission were sought, and, in due course, permission was obtained from all but one landowner, the only one who resided in the Kaladar area. The Ministry, determined to proceed, purchased the Sevin, committing some \$50,000 of taxpayers' money.

Meanwhile, the spectre of gypsy moth infestation was gradually being replaced by concern over the use of Sevin. The concern was fueled by a timely article in *Harrowsmith* magazine (Number 42, April/May 1982) about the health risks of the spruce budwork spray program in New Brunswick. Biologists and amateur naturalists were no less concerned about the effects of aerial spraying of Sevin on harmless insect populations, especially bees and aquatic invertebrates, and ultimately other wildlife which feeds on insects.

Opposition mounted with numerous letters to the local newspapers and interviews on radio and television. The Ministry still maintained that it would not spray if the local residents opposed it. At a hastily convened public meeting in Kaladar on May 14, only days before the spraying was to begin, a show of hands made it clear that the local citizens were opposed. Ministry representatives at the meeting agreed to cancel the spray program, and a news release was sent out three days later from Toronto reinforcing this decision.

However, the Minister, Alan Pope, and his senior staff apparently had second thoughts about the wider implications of bowing to public pressure. In a move which overrode (and undercut) his field staff, the Minister announced that there had been a misunderstanding. He had cancelled plans to spray the privately owned lands, not the 200 to 300 hectares of Crown land; treatment of the Crown land would proceed as planned. Since the original reason for advocating spraying was to prevent spread of the moth larvae, treatment of only part of the area infested made no logical sense whatsoever. The area infested had no commercial timber; therefore, preventing further defoliation could not be argued as justification for spraying.

The actual spraying was held up by a combination of poor weather and the presence of a band of protestors blocking the runway of the local airstrip selected for flying the spray plane. The weather eventually cleared up, and the protestors were foiled by the Ministry's moving the base of operations to another air-strip and keeping the actual timing of the spraying a secret. The residents were not advised of the spraying until it was completed.

The whole episode leaves a bad taste all round. The Ministry's public consultation process appeared to have no real meaning. The Ministry has done nothing to contain the gypsy moth - there are means other than aerial spraying of chemical pesticides. Our government has not profitted from experience south of the border. The battle lines have been drawn between pro-spray and anti-spray forces in southern Ontario.

# Christmas in September

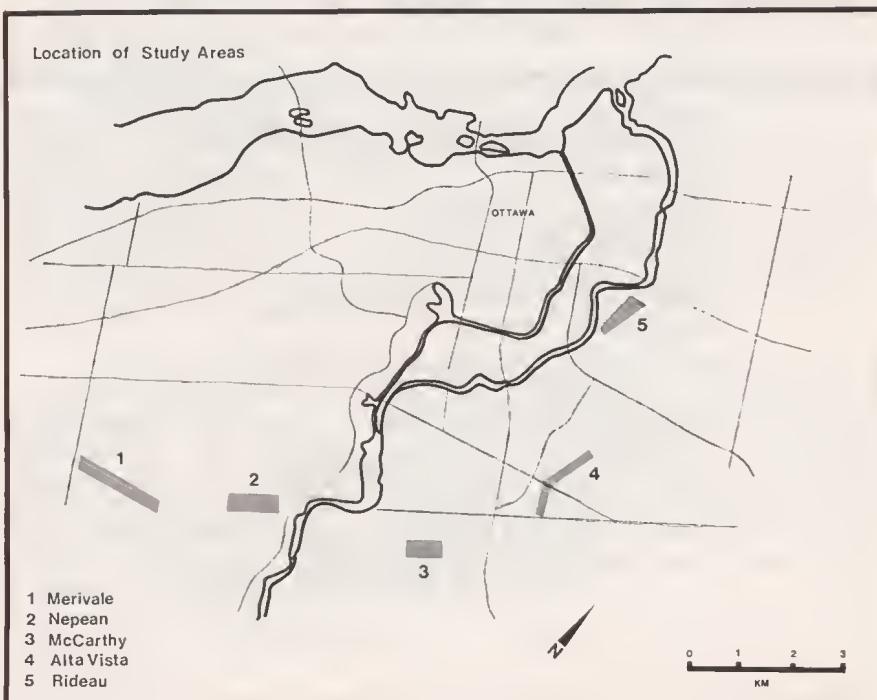
Claudia Smith

# Birds and the NCC Cutting Team (Good News for Meadowlark Fans)

Bill Morrison

During the summer of 1981, the National Capital Commission sponsored a student "Summer Canada" project entitled "Avifauna Survey of Vacant Grasslands". The purpose of this study was to see how bird populations in grassland areas of the National Capital Region reacted to different mowing treatments. From these findings, and from determining local resident concerns, we were to propose specific management procedures (for example, cutting) for these areas.

At each of five areas (map below), permanent transect lines were set up, and all the birds found within 30 metres of these lines were identified and counted. Measurements were taken between June 1 and July 31. From these data we could calculate relative density (birds/300 m of transect) and diversity values (Shannon index and number of species) (Geibert 1980, Lancaster and Rees 1979). We also searched for nests and monitored their status through the season. Half of one site (Merivale) was cut in early June, and another area (Alta Vista) was cut in early July.



At the same time, we interviewed homeowners who live near these fields to determine what use people make of these areas and how they feel about the maintenance of the fields.

In general, neither relative density nor diversity changed greatly throughout the season, nor did they change with respect to the different cutting schedules. However, the lack of change in diversity is misleading because after an area was cut, there was an immediate, pronounced drop in numbers of Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Savannah Sparrow and, sometimes, Gray Partridge. This "loss" was compensated for by a "gain" in flocks of European Starling, Rock Dove and House Sparrow. Therefore, the number of species remained constant, and a simple measure of diversity was inadequate in describing the real changes that were occurring. I think most naturalists would agree that the qualitative changes in the bird community which resulted from the cutting were quite detrimental. As a result then, if we were concerned only with the birds, we would recommend one cut of the fields at the end of each summer.

However, it became clear that such a plan would not sit too well with local residents. People use these fields mostly for walking or "playing" and, in the winter, cross-country skiing. They definitely do want to see these fields cut (two or three times per season was most often mentioned), and, as National Capital Commission personnel well know, they show no reservation in phoning in complaints. These complaints are based on fears which may be genuine (including concern for hay fever sufferers and fire hazards) or imagined (for example, fear of thieves hiding in the tall grass). Therefore, if the only concern was to minimize complaints, as it has been in the past, then two or three cuts per season would be applied to each field as soon as was thought necessary.

Faced with conflicting concerns, we tried to work out a plan which would minimize brood losses due to cutting and also keep complaints down. Specific plans were worked out for various fields depending on such factors as their proximity to houses, their biological value, and their ease of maintenance. As a result of these recommendations, the Conservation Section of the National Capital Commission has proposed the following general guidelines for cutting of all undeveloped grassland areas on its lands. These guidelines cover all grassy areas except lawns and parkways:

1. Areas in which trees have been planted or in which there are abundant saplings or scattered mature trees will not be cut at all. There will also be no mowing in smaller areas which are adjacent to seed sources (for example, beside woodlots). It is hoped that these areas will mature into woodlots. (For an example of this type of management, take a walk on the south side of Pleasant Park Woods!)

2. In fields adjacent to homes and/or which have a history of complaints associated with them, there will be "strips" no wider than five metres cut on their perimeters as often as necessary. These "strips" will follow housing-field or field-road boundaries. These fields may be cut entirely after July 1 each year.
3. Larger fields which are not adjacent to housing areas will be left unmowed until July 1 of each year. After July 1, these fields may be mowed.
4. Bike paths or other maintained trails will have strips no wider than two metres cut beside them as often as necessary. Foot paths or other "unofficial" trails will not have strips cut beside them.
5. Where often-mowed areas are adjacent to woodlots, a buffer strip of at least two metres beside the edge of the woodlot will be left unmowed.
6. Fields in which there is construction activity will not be mowed.

Most of these guidelines have been in effect during the summer of 1982.

Obviously, July 1 is a critical date. From our own nest studies and from literature sources, we felt that the species concerned would be able to get at least one brood fledged by July 1, except in years with exceptionally late springs. The Bobolink is particularly sensitive in this regard, as it produces only one brood per season. Additionally, the maintenance people felt that in some cases it would be very difficult to delay mowing past this date because of both complaints and technical problems.

It is hoped that these new guidelines will help make National Capital Commission lands more suitable habitats for grassland bird species. If you are interested in a more detailed report, contact Stewart Hamill, Chief, Conservation Greenbelt Division, National Capital Commission, 161 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6J6 (telephone 992-4828).

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# Provincial Parks Planning in Eastern Ontario

Don Cuddy, Park Planner  
Ministry of Natural Resources, Kemptville

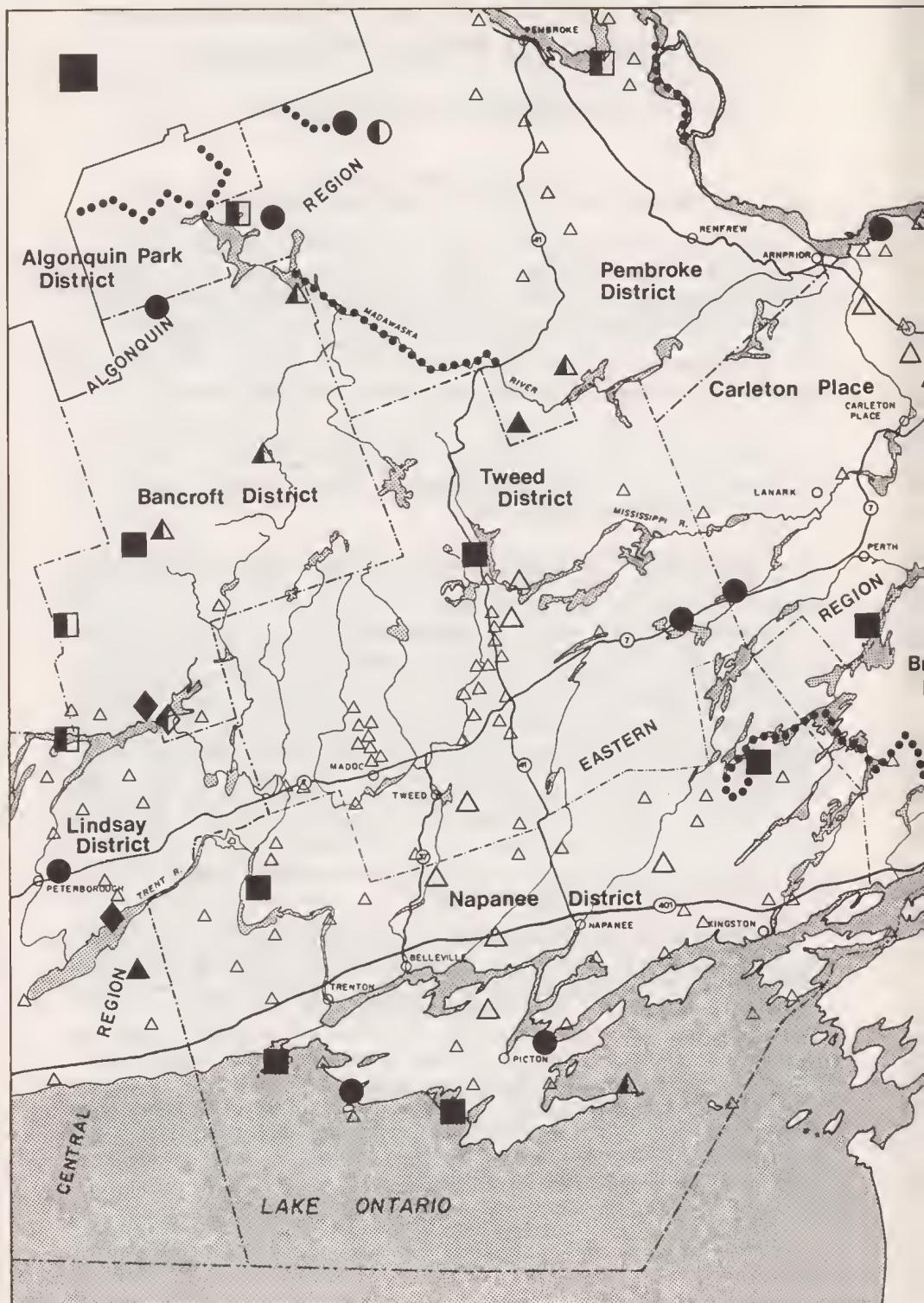
In May, 1978, the government of Ontario approved a policy for the provincial park system. This policy describes four objectives of the system: Protection, Recreation, Heritage Appreciation and Tourism. The policy also establishes certain principles for the planning and management of the park system. Among these principles are the concepts of park classification and zoning. These concepts recognize that no single park can achieve all objectives.

The six classes of park - Wilderness, Nature Reserve, Historical, Natural Environment, Waterway and Recreation together make up a system which serves many masters - from the most ardent naturalist to the sun-and-fun set.

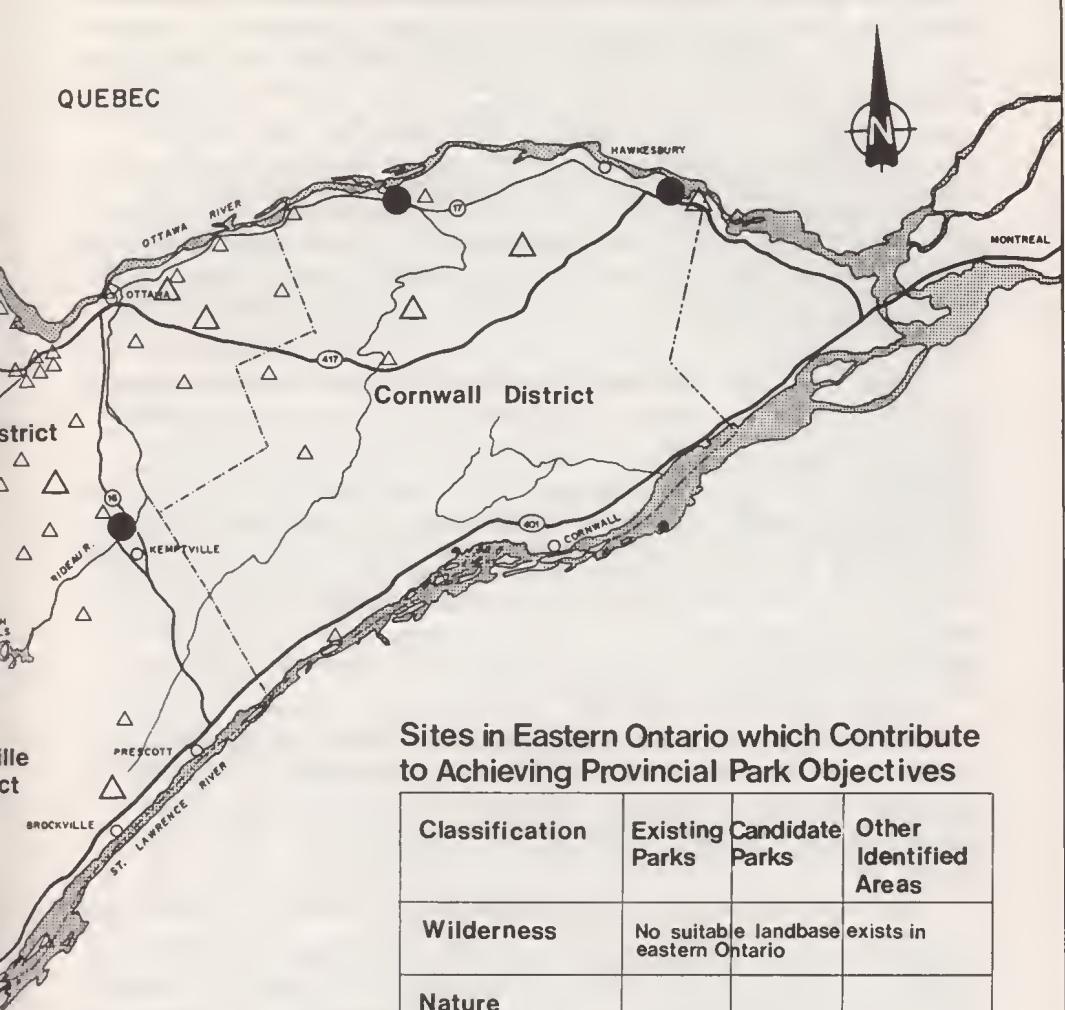
*Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies* (also dubbed 'the blue book'), issued in the fall of 1978, provides program targets for achieving each of the four objectives as well as specific policies and representation standards for each class of park. With these tools in hand, park planners could proceed to examine the existing park system, identify its short-comings and propose changes to the system. These changes could include closing parks which do not contribute to the system, reclassifying parks which could better contribute if planned and managed in a different way, and proposing new parks to fill gaps in the system. Regional park planners were assigned this job and with the assistance of earth and life specialists, archaeologists and historians plus special studies and surveys of both resources and recreational preferences, draft versions of eight regional parks system plans were completed by the spring of 1981.

Simultaneously, the Ministry of Natural Resources was developing land use plans. In 1972, a commitment was made to draw up land use plans for all 46 administrative districts. These plans, prepared by district staff, would analyze the resources of the districts, set resource management targets and allocate resources in such a way as to achieve maximum benefits for the people of Ontario. Wherever possible Crown lands are managed according to the multiple use principle - different activities can occur on the same land base either simultaneously or sequentially. Some land uses are, however, essentially incompatible; for example, wilderness parks and forest management agreement areas.

By early 1981, it became apparent that district land use plans and regional parks system plans were scheduled to be com-



QUEBEC



### Sites in Eastern Ontario which Contribute to Achieving Provincial Park Objectives

Classification	Existing Parks	Candidate Parks	Other Identified Areas
Wilderness	No suitable landbase exists in eastern Ontario		
Nature Reserve	▲	▲	△ △
Historical	◆	◆	Not mapped
Natural Environment	■	□	..
Waterway		••••	..
Recreation	●	○	..

District boundary

Scale

10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 km

pleted at roughly the same time, and the integration of park proposals into district plans was being handled somewhat unevenly in different parts of the province. The situation was especially acute in northern Ontario where large wilderness park proposals conflicted with other resource management programs. During the summer of 1981, a ministry task force chaired by Rick Monzon was established to bring together the eight regional parks system plans and to incorporate new park proposals into the district land use planning program. The task force report, completed in the fall of 1981, identified approximately 240 new park proposals as well as a number of other sites which could contribute to achieving provincial park objectives if properly managed by the agencies or private individuals which own them.

Draft land use strategies for all districts are now available for public review. These strategies identify the various park proposals and other significant sites and outline briefly the strategies the ministry will use to try to protect these sites. Whereas in northern Ontario some 90% of the land is owned by the province, in southern Ontario the situation is reversed. Here, most ministry program targets, including the parks program, cannot be achieved without a substantial contribution from lands owned by other public agencies and private individuals. Consultation and negotiation with the various landowners will be the principle means of protecting natural and cultural features on lands not directly administered by the ministry.

The map on the preceeding pages shows the existing parks, proposed candidate parks and other sites identified in eastern Ontario which are considered important to achieving provincial park objectives. More information is available on these sites from the respective ministry district offices.

By the time you read this, the district open houses scheduled for the first three weeks of August may be past. If you were unable to attend an open house, your concerns can still be registered by writing or phoning one of the district offices. Comments received up to September 1, 1982, will be considered in finalizing the draft district strategies. Through the month of September ministry staff will be revising the draft plans. The final versions of the plans will be available by the end of December 1982. Thereafter, changes to the plans will be accomplished by a review and amendment procedure.

In the Carleton Place District, Identified Nature Reserves (open triangles) include The Sand Hills at Constance Bay, The Long Swamp at Manion Corners, The Richmond Fen, The Burnt Lands Alvar, Mer Bleue Bog, Greens Creek, Mud Pond Fen and South Gloucester. [All of these areas have been described in *Trail & Landscape* and are considered to be of top significance by The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.] Make your comments on these areas to Mr. Jim Bailey, District Manager, Ministry of Natural Resources, 10 Findlay Avenue, Carleton Place, Ontario K7C 3Z6.

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# The Birds Committee

Daniel F. Brunton

In one way or another, The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club has had a formalized group interested in birds and birding for most of its history. Back in the 1880s, it was the Ornithology Branch, led by such luminaries as G.R. White, W.A.D. Lees, A.G. Kingston and John Macoun (Scott *et al.* 1887, Kingston *et al.* 1894). They accumulated bird data for publication in the *Transactions* and, later, *The Ottawa Naturalist*. Periodically, checklists were published and lectures were delivered at various Club soirées.

In the first half of this century, the Club was served by the Bird Census Committee, which concerned itself with conducting the annual Ottawa Christmas Bird Census. It also published the results of each census (and others across Canada) in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*. It was a quieter time than we now know, as illustrated by this description of the 1941 census:

"... it was taken on December 21, 1941, by twenty observers in nine parties. A total of 28 species and 2,042 individuals was reported. Two species, the Black Duck and [Northern] Three-toed Woodpecker were reported for the first time ..." (Groves 1943).

In the early 1940s, an ornithology study group was established under the Excursions and Lectures Committee but appears to have been short-lived and is not mentioned in the 1948 Report of Council (Lanceley and Scoggan 1949).

The Bird Census Committee continued to coordinate Christmas counts into the 1960s. As birding activity "exploded" in the Ottawa area (and elsewhere in Canada), a number of Club members felt the need for a committee which also had the technical responsibility for evaluating and accepting rare bird records. At this time, the active and growing Ottawa birding community was producing a steady stream of new records and reports, and some way of coordinating these activities and documenting their results was required.

The Birds Committee was established by the Council in November 1971. Because of technical requirements of the group vis-à-vis evaluating rare bird reports and thus its fixed number of members, the committee was not chosen by the Council and was officially "sponsored" by the Club rather than being a regular council committee. It was set up to coordinate ornithological activities in the Club, to evaluate and document rare bird sightings, and to encourage interest in birds and birding (Brunton 1972).

From 1971 until 1980, the Bird Records Committee was actively involved in birding activities in the Ottawa District, conducting Spring and Fall bird counts and the Christmas Bird Census, as well as reviewing and accepting numerous rare bird reports (Brunton and Foxall 1973). Copies of all rare bird reports and committee minutes have been deposited in the Club collection at the Public Archives, thus providing a permanent and secure record of these efforts.

During this period, a separate group, the Bird Feeder Committee, looked after the increasingly large effort and expense of the various Club feeders in the District (Munro 1971, McGee 1972, Humphreys 1977). By the late 1970s, this popular program was costing over \$1000 per year!

The limited membership of the Bird Records Committee (necessary to ensure technically sound rare bird evaluations) meant that the seven members were hard-pressed to broaden the committee's involvement in other birding programs and activities. Early in 1980, a reorganization of the committee was proposed to accommodate the existing activities of the group and to allow for an expansion of its role. The reorganization was effected that year, and in November 1980 the Council approved the formation of the Birds Committee as it is now set up.

The Birds Committee is a regular committee of the Council and has attached to it two subcommittees, the Bird Feeder Subcommittee (to look after the Club feeders) and the Bird Records Subcommittee (a limited membership group responsible for rare bird reports and other technical birding matters). The main committee, now open to a larger membership, has taken on much more than was possible under the old arrangements. In the year and a half in which it has been going, it has continued previous efforts (through the subcommittees) and has taken on involvement in such projects as the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, helping to establish the Club's Bird Study Group, preparing information for ornithological researchers, initiating an owl census in the Ottawa District, initiating preparations for a "Bird Hot-line" in Ottawa, developing cooperative feeder management efforts with the National Capital Commission and the Club des Ornithologues de l'Outaouais, starting an annual seedathon to raise money for maintaining Club feeders, working with the Conservation Committee on questions of conservation and protection for rare species, gathering old bird records of Club members for deposit in the Public Archives, technical involvement in *The Shrike*, arranging access for birders to restricted areas .... and so on. It's been a busy time.

The Birds Committee meets each month, usually at the National Museum of Natural Sciences. In addition to an expanded membership (over a dozen), visitors frequently attend and are encouraged to participate in the proceedings (Hanrahan 1982). The Bird Records Subcommittee meets less frequently, and separately

from the main Committee but, as with the Bird Feeder Subcommittee, reports on its activities at each main committee meeting and works through it. The diversity of subjects dealt with now, its more open format and larger membership, often leads to spirited and stimulating sessions. Most importantly the committee is better able to serve the interests of the hundreds of birders within the approximately 1,000 local members of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

The Birds Committee is always looking for new ideas and ways to make Ottawa birding more enjoyable and productive. Its members welcome the involvement of more Club members who are keen on helping out. If you have some ideas in this regard and/or are interested in getting involved in the existing programs, why not come out to a meeting and join in the proceedings?

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# Birds in the Garden

Bill Gummer

This was an interesting spring. Either I am becoming more observant in my old age, or there really were more birds around our westend garden than usual; not so much in species as in numbers.

Within four contiguous lots we have had three American Robin, two Common Grackle, two Red-winged Blackbird, one Song Sparrow and one Tree Swallow nests, as well as a colony of Purple Martins. Within a further lot or two either way, we heard Warbling Vireo, Northern Oriole, White-Throated Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Gray Catbird, Mourning Dove, Black-capped Chickadee (which nested near the front door last year) and, of course, European Starling and House Sparrow, some definitely nesting and all sounding as if they were. A Northern Cardinal, which seemed to have a very wide territory, had a singing post in a neighbour's garden. We think a Ruby-throated Hummingbird was nesting because we saw the female so frequently.

I have a birdbath in the flower bed, and I noticed that almost every time I went to clean or fill it there was a number of those neat little garbage bags that young birds deposit in their nest. I discovered the reason suddenly when I saw a Common Grackle swoop from its nearby nest and precisely drop a little white bag into the water. Did this bird nest by a lake last year?

One of the robin nests in a spruce suddenly changed nature. We'd watched the bird collecting nesting materials, including mud from beside the birdbath, (and often dropping a valuable mouthful just because it saw a bug or worm), and were waiting to see the young appear. They did - two partially fledged babies dead on the ground. The chirps were replaced by a harsh "check" and became so incessant from 4 a.m. to dusk that the neighbours were complaining. The reason soon appeared on the lawn - a plump and messy young Brown-headed Cowbird following a tired-looking robin back and forth. When the robin found food, the cowbird crowded so near the foster mother than she actually seemed to duck and flinch from the gaping mouth of the cowbird. Not only that, but there was a second young cowbird suddenly on the scene, and I think it came from the same nest. Nothing was ever so persistently raucous in our gardens as those young birds.

The female robin was soon back at nest-building, or re-building. She kept my birdbath dirty from the baths she took to remove the mud from her breast, presumably caked on from shaping the nest.

Two female Red-winged Blackbirds didn't quite share the bath, but nearly did. Both often came at the same time, and one would wait its turn a bit impatiently while the other splashed and watched it. Only occasionally would one push the other a bit further away in among the phlox and iris. Robins are more friendly to their own species; I've seen three on the bath at the same time.

At one period the bird songs were almost annoying, they were so continuous and loud. In addition to all the common robin, grackle, sparrow and redwing chatter and whistling, we had cardinal, oriole, catbird and Warbling Vireo all at full blast above our heads. I eventually got my cassette recorder and followed the catbird, recording him loudly enough that he could hear it across the garden. I ended up with the catbird about three metres from me, arguing loudly with that odd-looking interloper that sang just like he did. The really funny thing was that he never needed more than one note to come from the tape before he started singing back at it. One note was clearly enough to trigger his antagonism. Too bad we can't all express antagonism with such a wealth of musical sound!

\* \* \*

#### CORRECTIONS

May/August issue: *Birding in Costa Rica*, page 164. The long sentence in the middle of the second paragraph should finish "... the absurd Keel-billed and the Collared Aracari were seen often. The Cayenne Pigeon was seen and more often heard. The Lineated Woodpecker ...".

March/April issue: *From Bog Group to Traill Group 1955 to 1965*, page 95. In the lower photograph, the person on the right was identified as Deborah Haight; however, Deborah informs us that this person is someone else. Can any of our readers tell us who?

\* \* \*

#### MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The National Museum of Natural Sciences is looking for people who are able to volunteer a few hours a week. You may choose to work with groups visiting the Museum or assist scientific staff in the laboratories. Interest is the basic requirement, but if you have special training, we'll put it to good use. For more information, call Mary Anne Dancey or Maryse Lapointe at 995-9538.

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# Birding in the Fast Lane

Val Bernard Ladouceur and Bruce M. Di Labio

There are some ugly aspects to listing birds. Sometimes, the most beautiful and/or interesting creatures are reduced to a mere tick on a list. Listing is often competitive, and competition in any field can lead to hard feelings and an uncooperative spirit. Competition, whether it be with others or oneself, can often result in people using their imaginations instead of observing strictly the bird which is before them. Listing can also deter people from actually studying a bird well, because many observers are eager to look immediately for a new bird.

Other negative statements can be made about listing. Instead of pursuing this line of thought further, we wish to state that there is nothing really wrong about listing, but, as in all aspects of life, people's approaches are often negative.

Listing can be a powerful incentive to gain more knowledge. The greatest benefit of listing is that it draws people out into the field. Almost every week of the year has something different to offer. A birder who is trying to find as many species as possible, every week of the year, very quickly develops a fairly complete overview of what each bird species is doing at any given time during the year. He knows, approximately, when a species first arrives, when it arrives in larger numbers, when it leaves, and so forth. He learns how certain species change plumage over the course of a year. He learns immature plumages, bird songs, various call notes, the effect of weather conditions on migration patterns, and the various habitats in which each species occurs. A greater number of rarities will be found, of course, if there is a greater number of observers and each observer is experienced. When the observations of each birder can be sent into a central location, it is not hard to see how the combined data can give a fairly accurate picture of the bird life in the region. Club publications such as *The Shrike* and *The Birder's Checklist of Ottawa* are based on such observations.

While listing provides an incentive to gain an incredible amount of familiarity with the plumages, songs and habits of each bird species, this accumulation of knowledge will in turn lead to BETTER LISTS.

Some of the accomplishments of the last decade have been amazing. The first time an Ottawa\* year list broke 100 was in the late 1960s. In 1971, this listing craze really exploded,

\* area of 50 km radius centred on the Parliament Buildings

with Bruce MacTavish listing 239 species, followed closely by three others. In 1973, Bruce Di Labio recorded 241 species. The following year, fierce competition pushed the record up to 254 (Di Labio and Tom Hince) with three others breaking 250 that year. At that time, many of the birders were in their teens and used bicycles as their primary means of transportation.

Unfortunately, many of these events went undocumented. Here is a list of some of the significant bird listing feats from 1974 to 1982.

Date	Observers	Number Species
May 19, 1974	Di Labio, Hince, Dafoe	135
	<i>The total was found exclusively north of the Ottawa River and east of the Gatineau River (the Northeast).</i>	
1974	Di Labio, Hince	254
	<i>The best year list to that time; the best of the 1974 efforts breaking 250 species. (See above.)</i>	
Aug. 24, 1975	Di Labio, Hince, Barrett	142
	<i>The most species recorded on a single day at the time</i>	
Aug. 27, 1975	Di Labio, Steve and Simon Gawn	135
	<i>This list was collected entirely by bicycle</i>	
March 27, 1976	Di Labio, Poulin, MacTavish	73
	<i>Highest March day list</i>	
May 21, 1978	Hince	145
	<i>Highest day list at the time</i>	
January 1979	Di Labio	67
	<i>Highest January month list at the time</i>	
Jan. 1, 1980	Simon and Mark Gawn, Bracken	49
	<i>Highest January day list</i>	
January 1980	Di Labio	76
	<i>Highest January month list</i>	
May 18-19, 1980	Hince, Runtz, Bracken	148
	<i>Highest 24-hour (5 p.m. - 5 p.m.) count at the time</i>	
1980	Di Labio	257
	<i>Highest year list at the time</i>	
May 24, 1981	Foxall, Steve Gawn	139
	<i>The total was recorded exclusively south of the Ottawa River and east of the Rideau River (the Southeast). The highest total ever found in any of the four quadrants</i>	

<i>Date</i>	<i>Observers</i>	<i>Number Species</i>
May 1981	Di Labio	207
<i>Highest month list at the time</i>		
June 27, 1981	Di Labio, Harris	135
<i>Highest June day list</i>		
1981	Di Labio	259
<i>Highest year list</i>		
April 30, 1982	Di Labio	113
<i>Earliest 100 list; highest April day list</i>		
May 15, 1982	Di Labio, Harris	154
<i>Highest day list</i>		
May 1982	Di Labio	226
<i>Highest month list</i>		

The latter three events will be discussed in this article.

With greater responsibilities belonging to many of the participating individuals, competitive listing has dropped off in recent years - especially year lists. Bruce Di Labio is the notable exception. Bruce, too, has more responsibilities than he did in the early and mid-seventies. He is now married and has a full time job. Bruce also spends a great deal of time working as an editor of *The Shrike* and as the Ottawa regional coordinator of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project, a five-year undertaking to study the province's breeding birds.

Despite being a much busier person, Bruce's dedication and love for birding continues to keep him as active as ever. A position with the National Museum of Natural Sciences allows Bruce to spend some time in the field during the week. This plus the fact that he now owns a car and the fact that he has been birding for eleven years helps explain how Bruce can continue to break records.

Until this year, no one had ever recorded over 100 species in April. On April 30, Bruce spent 12 1/2 hours in the field and drove over 300 km in recording 113 species. Some of the stops during the day included Shirleys Bay and Ottawa Beach (water birds); Britannia Woods, Vincent Massey Park and the Arboretum (woodland birds); Dunrobin area (Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Hawks); Richmond, Almonte and Munster Sewage Lagoons (shorebirds - nine species at Richmond); interior and exterior Experimental Farms (field birds); south of the Ottawa International Airport (the best variety of sparrows in Ottawa, Red-headed Woodpecker); and Nepean Dump (gulls - usually only checked in autumn).

Bruce started before dawn and had four species of owl calling; he added Short-eared Owl later that day. Before starting Bruce estimated that a total of 115 species was very possible because he and many other birders know what should be around at any time of the year. This knowledge is essential when mapping out a strategy. Of course, you can't find everything, even though you know it's there. You also inevitably encounter unexpected species - the spice of birding - such as Red-throated Loon, Iceland Gull, and an early Eastern Kingbird which Bruce found that day.

On May 15, Bruce and Jim Harris set a new Ottawa record for species seen in a single day. They found 154 species, a total which bettered previous marks of 148 (5 p.m. - 5 p.m. by Hince, Runtz and Bracken) and 145 (best calendar day by Hince). Bruce and Jim were out from 2 a.m. until midnight and travelled 400 km by car and 20 km by foot.

They started the day in the Munster area listening for owls and other birds which are more active at night - American Woodcock, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, and so forth. They were at the Richmond Sewage Lagoons by dawn and next went to the duck ponds behind Shirleys Bay. Their route continued out to Dunrobin, back to Shirleys Bay, Ottawa Beach, Britannia Woods, Champlain Bridge and Champlain Lookout in Gatineau Park (where birds such as Turkey Vulture, Raven and Goshawk are more likely to be seen). They then had to decide between going in the direction of Thurso or the direction of the airport. They chose the latter and checked Clyde Avenue Woods, Vincent Massey Park and Billings Bridge Woods on the way. After checking the area south of the airport, they came back through the Central Experimental Farm, Pinecrest Cemetery (Mockingbird), Cedarview Road area, and finally ending up back at Shirleys Bay where their list climbed from 145 to 152. Next, they returned to the Richmond Sewage Lagoons and, as the sun was setting, started the 4 km trek along the railway tracks into the Richmond Fen (for Sedge Wren and Yellow Rail). They completed the day by owling in the Munster area.

Highlights included a Marbled Godwit and two Hudsonian Godwits at Richmond Sewage Lagoons (found the day before) and the earliest date ever for Yellow Rail in Richmond Fen. The most common bird missed that day was Red-eyed Vireo. The result of this day's effort seems to indicate that if a big day were done sometime between May 17 and May 24, during a near perfect migration day, then 170 species would not be out of the question.

In addition to the two big days, Bruce also went for a May month list. His effort produced an impressive total of 226 species. He missed only a handful of species which were either observed by other individuals (for example, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker) or were known in the area during the month (for example, Yellow-billed Cuckoo). He did a very thorough job.

Several factors are involved in an effort this successful. Experience is one factor. An experienced birder knows when, where and under what conditions to search for a bird. This knowledge avoids wasting time; for example, during the first week of May, Bruce had Fox Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, Common Redpoll and Lapland Longspur, along with a number of duck species, all of which would be virtually impossible to find later in the month. During the middle of the month, he made sure to look for some of the more obscure species such as Orange-crowned Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow and Gray-cheeked Thrush. He knows that Yellow-bellied Flycatcher migrant numbers are at their peak near the end of May after most migrants have been through Ottawa. He knows that a night with a brisk north wind means that likely very few birds will have migrated into Ottawa by the next day. He knows that rare shorebirds can show up at any time, particularly during sudden weather changes (for example, Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits, Ruff, Red Knot). He knows that the Ottawa River has to be checked constantly and especially near the end of the month when rare shorebirds, gulls (Lesser Black-backed this year), terns (Forster's, Arctic and Caspian), and jaegers (none this year) may pass through.

Another important factor is simply the amount of time spent in the field. The more you are out, the more you will see. (Unfortunately, the law of diminishing returns does apply.) Bruce was out at least part of each day during May. This is part of the reason why he didn't miss a single May rarity, why he had the only Arctic Tern, and why he found another Caspian Tern after having missed one a few day earlier. Simply being out a lot allowed Bruce to find scarcities such as Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-throated Loon, Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull, Arctic Tern, Caspian Tern, Red Crossbill, Yellow-throated Vireo and Surf Scoter. He found some rare species along the way as well - Cerulean Warbler, Ruff, Marbled Godwit, Hudsonian Godwit and Forster's Tern.

Bruce also had to make special efforts for certain species which are known to be present in only one or two local areas. Mockingbird (Pinecrest Cemetery), House Finch (near Woodroffe Avenue and Baseline Road), Ring-necked Pheasant (Rideau River), Golden-winged Warbler (Lac Philippe), Northern Raven (north of the Ottawa River), Clay-coloured Sparrow (airport), Sedge Wren and Yellow Rail (Richmond Fen) all fall into this category. Locating some of these birds can be a time-consuming venture, and after all that time you often have added only one species to your list.

Perseverance is very important. Bruce never gives up. May 17 and 18 are days during which you would expect to find many migrating birds. Yet Bruce failed to find a year bird during those two days. The only month bird he had was a fairly

good one, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Still, it was very discouraging to spend all that time birding and come up with very little. Some birds took a lot of time to locate. Bruce had to spend a few evenings listening for Least Bittern before one called. Near the end of the month he was unable to find the Louisiana Water-thrush and had to go back up into Gatineau Park the next day to see it. If Bruce misses a bird such as the Caspian Tern, he doesn't get discouraged; he tries harder. He was rewarded with his own Caspian Tern for his perseverance.

Good contact with other birders and the public is important. Bruce has his name and telephone number in Elizabeth Le Geyt's *Citizen* bird column. A phone call from a reader allowed Bruce to see a Sandhill Crane, and another young birder informed Bruce of the presence of a Marbled Godwit at the Richmond Sewage Lagoons. He also phones other birders to see what they have observed.

On May 30, Bruce and his wife, Astred, were returning from Windsor. It was getting close to dark as they entered Richmond and Bruce decided to phone a birder just in case something good had been seen. He was informed that there was a Glossy Ibis at Greens Creek Sewage Lagoons, east of the city. Bruce raced from Richmond all the way across Ottawa and arrived before dark to see the bird. It was gone the next day. That was a very important phone call.

That story also falls into the category of luck. Not only was he lucky to phone and have enough light to see the bird. It should be noted that the Glossy Ibis flew away, probably while Bruce was charging across town, but decided to make a special return visit - just for Bruce.

Bruce met Mark Gawn and Bob Gorman at Shirleys Bay on May 29, and they informed him that there was a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Deschênes; Bruce was the last person to see the bird. It is impossible to quantify luck. Most of his success is due to his own effort, but Bruce does seem to be constantly migrating toward rare birds, or, failing that, they migrate toward him.

The effort tells most of the tale; however, he travelled 3700 km and spent \$250 in gasoline (ouch!).

In conclusion, we will say that with experience, time, special effort for certain species, perseverance, good contacts, and a little luck (or a lot?), you, too, can find 226 species in May.

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# Some Additions and Annotations to the Checklist of Vascular Plants of the Ottawa-Hull Region, Canada

Stephen J. Darbyshire

In 1978, the updated *Checklist of Vascular Plants of the Ottawa-Hull Region* by J.M. Gillett and D.J. White was released by the National Museum of Natural Sciences. This book has proven a very useful tool for many people studying plants in the Ottawa District<sup>#</sup>. To realize how important it is, one has only to look at how often it is cited in *Trail & Landscape* - 20 times in the 18 issues since 1978. Naturalists in the Ottawa District are very fortunate to have such a detailed list at their disposal.

For various reasons, the status of many plant species will change, either in reality or as a result of human investigation. The checklist provides an excellent foundation for studying changes in plant populations past and future. With the exception of weedy species, most real changes in status will be due to habitat changes or, more rarely, disease as in the White Elm.

The following list of additions and annotations (including speculations) to the checklist is based on my observations and collections in and around the Ottawa District up to November, 1981. Annotations are casual and are included for the general interest of local naturalists. No systematic attempt was made to cover all or part of the checklist. Information given is supplemental to the information in the checklist; authorities are given only for new species. An asterisk (\*) denotes a species not listed in Gillett and White (1978). My specialization at this time is the grass family, and many of my comments concern this group of plants. For more information on grasses in our area, the recent (1980) *Grasses of Ontario* by W.G. Dore and J. McNeill (Agriculture Canada Monograph #26) should be consulted.

Many of the plants considered here are restricted in distribution to the corridors of the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers. Localization is often due to specific habitat requirements or dispersal mechanisms, but the reasons are not always evident.

*Selaginella rupestris*. This plant occurs on granitic rocks. In Ontario, areas such as the Carp Hills provide suitable habitat.

<sup>#</sup> The Ottawa District (Ottawa-Hull Region of Gillett and White) is the area within a 50 km radius of the Parliament Buildings.

*Dryopteris goldiana*. This fern is extinct in many of the locations of old records, such as Beechwood Cemetery. Habitat deterioration has caused its extirpation at these sites.

*Taxus canadensis*. In Ontario this species is common in forests along the Ottawa River where heavy clay soils predominate.

*Potamogeton perfoliatus*. This relatively small pondweed is common in shallow, quiet waters along the Rideau and Ottawa Rivers. It often grows in very thick colonies, such as the ones in the ponds of the park at Mooney's Bay.

*P. zosteriformis*. This pondweed is common in marshy areas along the Ottawa River, such as the backwaters of Kettle Island and Upper and Lower Duck Islands.

*Najas flexilis*. This is another species that is common in quiet waters along the Ottawa River.

*Butomus umbellatus*. This is now common along the Ottawa River in marshy areas from Montreal to Pembroke. It can be expected to continue to spread.

*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*. This species is now abundant in many places along the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers. It has spread up the St. Lawrence River and along the north shores of Lakes Ontario and Erie. It has also invaded many sites with no direct contact with either river; for example, the large pond on the edge of Mer Bleue at the end of Ridge Road (A. Reddoch. 1976. *Trail & Landscape* 10(4): 87-89).

*Andropogon gerardii* and *A. scoparius*. Both these species like sandy areas. They occur only in the western half of our area.

\**Arrhenatherum elatius* (L.) Presl. Tall Oatgrass. This is a European grass introduced into North America as a forage grass. It has become a common weed of disturbed sites in southwestern Ontario and northern United States. A small colony was found in a disturbed grassy lot west of Bayshore shopping centre (Dickson and Darbyshire 1979).

*Bromus ciliatus*. This is our common woodland brome. It occurs in tall clumps at the edges of and in most woodlots in our area.

*Bromus kalmii*. This is the common brome of open, alvar-type habitats. It covers extensive areas in The Burnt Lands and the Marlborough Forest where there is shallow soil over limestone bedrock.

\* not listed in Gillett and White (1978)

*Echinochloa crusgalli*. This species is actually a relatively uncommon weed, but it has been confused frequently with *E. weigandii*. For a detailed account of the problematical *Echinochloa*, *Grasses of Ontario* by W.G. Dore and J. McNeill should be consulted. The species concepts are somewhat different from those of the checklist.

*Elymus hystrix*. This species is definitely scarce in Quebec, but it occurs in many hardwood forests south of Ottawa. In places where the woods come close to roads, this grass may even be growing in the ditches.

*Elymus villosus*. This rare grass was collected at Stillwater Creek in Nepean (H.L. Dickson. 1980. *Trail & Landscape* 14(4): 130-134).

*Eragrostis poaeoides* (= *E. minor* Host). This grass is becoming a very common weed in our area. It is now widespread in Ontario and has been detected recently in Quebec, mostly along the Ottawa River.

*Festuca arundinacea*, *F. pratensis* and *F. rubra*. All of these fescue species are becoming much more common in the Ottawa District. These three species are present in grass seed mixes used by the National Capital Commission. They are all common in greenbelt areas.

*Glyceria maxima*. This alien grass has become common along the Mississippi River. It would seem likely that it will continue to spread out of the mouth of the Mississippi and down the Ottawa River. This grass likes wet soils and is common in the ditches along Highway 7 to the west of our area.

*Lolium multiflorum* and *L. perenne*. Both of these species are often present in the cheaper lawn seed mixtures.

*Muhlenbergia mexicana*. This grass species is abundant throughout the Ottawa-Hull region. It inhabits natural and disturbed sites. It is often abundant on waste lots.

*Poa nemoralis*. This species has been treated many different ways by different grass taxonomists. At least two taxa are grouped under the name *P. nemoralis* in the checklist. The typical and more common form is a European form that has a somewhat weedy nature in deciduous woods where the native herbaceous flora has been disturbed. This form has a small ligule, usually less than 1 mm, and very small spikelets in a delicate, somewhat stiff panicle. This grass is common around many of the lakes in Gatineau Park that are heavily visited. It is also common in the woodlots of the Billings Bridge - Hogs Back area. The other distinct variety is a native of rocky areas in semi-shaded or open sites. It has

a longer ligule (more than 1 mm), larger spikelets with a more robust appearance to the panicle. The native variety is much rarer than the introduced one and is usually found on granitic outcrops or on limestone in forest openings.

*Puccinellia distans*. This salt-tolerant grass is spreading widely along highways and roads (P.M. Catling and S.M. McKay. 1980. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 94(3): 248-258). In the Ottawa area it is very easy to distinguish the large brownish patches of this grass as one drives along the Queensway in late summer and fall. It is often common at snow dump sites and many waste lots.

\**Setaria faberi* Herrm. This is a robust tetraploid species that is becoming a very common agricultural weed in eastern Ontario. So far it is restricted chiefly to farms. This species may be difficult to separate from the diploid *S. viridis*, particularly if the latter is growing on a farm where it is fertilized. *S. faberi* has scattered, long hairs on the upper side of the leaf and a larger ( $\pm$  3 mm) more elliptic spikelet. *S. viridis* has completely glabrous leaves and a smaller (less than 2.5 mm), more ovate spikelet.

*Sporobolus vaginiflorus*. This is a common weedy species of road-sides and waste lots. It is usually found growing with *S. neglectus*. It tends to be a somewhat larger plant than *S. neglectus* especially in natural habitats. It can be distinguished from *S. neglectus* by its larger spikelets (more than 2 mm).

\**Cyperus dentatus* Torr. This species was found on the Plaisance Beach in Quebec at the extreme eastern edge of the Ottawa-Hull Region.

*Cyperus diandrus*. This uncommon species is found chiefly in sandy areas along the rivers.

\**Cyperus ferruginescens* Boekle. This species is at the northern edge of its range in our area. It was found at Ottawa Beach (H.L. Dickson. 1981. *Trail & Landscape* 15(1): 13-17) and may be expected at other sandy sites along the Ottawa River.

*Dulichium arundinaceum*. This sedge is common in most types of wetlands in our area.

*Fimbristylis autumnalis*. This small sedge is a "pioneer" beach species along the Ottawa River, although it will grow in wet soil with more organic matter than a beach. Because it is an annual species and is dispersed by water, it can be expected to come and go from sites along the Ottawa River.

*Rhynchospora alba*. This is a bog and fen species. It is locally common in Mer Bleue Bog and in the Mud Pond, Richmond and Long Swamp fens in Ontario (J. Reddoch. 1979. *Trail & Land-*

scape 13(1): 16-27 for the fens). In Quebec it is common in bogs and on mucky shores of acidic lakes.

*Scirpus fluviatilis*. This rush is abundant along the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers, especially along sandy shores. It rarely flowers and spreads in large colonies by heavy rhizomes. Its thick, triangular stems are often interspersed with the thinner, round stem of *S. validus*.

*Scirpus lineatus*. This is a relatively common species of moist pastures, fields and ditches in Ontario.

\**Juncus gerardi* Loisel. This rush is expanding its range in Ontario (P.M. Catling and S.M. McKay. 1980. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 94(3): 248-258). I have collected it in our area on Victoria Island in 1979 (Dickson and Darbyshire 1979).

*Juncus pelocarpus*. This rush is common on the sandy beaches of the Ottawa River. It is also found frequently in bogs.

*Luzula campestris*. This species is common in the Danford Lake area of Quebec. Bill Dore has assured me that neither he nor anyone he knows had planted it there.

*Trillium cernuum*. This species has been growing in Vincent Massey Park. Loney Dickson and I searched for it unsuccessfully in 1979 and noticed that the woods had been disturbed. In 1980 I noticed that the trees and bush in the area where these plants were known to occur were being cut and bulldozed. This species is known from a few other sites in the District.

*Iris pseudacorus*. There has been a thriving colony of these beautiful plants at McKay Lake. It has survived along the mucky shores for at least twenty years (and possibly much longer).

*Aplectrum hyemale*. I have looked extensively for this plant in the Beechwood-McKay Lake area without success. There may be no suitable habitat left now.

*Populus deltoides*. This tree is common in the flood plains of our rivers, particularly the Ottawa River.

*Carya ovata*. Loney Dickson and I found a single tree in the Rockcliffe Airbase Woods (H.L. Dickson. 1980. *Trail & Landscape* 14(5): 173-177). The tree occurs also at Casselman along the South Nation River, and at Aylmer along the Ottawa River (J.D. Lafontaine and D.J. White. *Trail & Landscape* 8(4): 110-111). It should be looked for in forests along our rivers.

*Betula populifolia*. This small tree is common only in Russell County. I have found it to be an uncommon species south of Ottawa in eastern and central Ottawa-Carleton and rare in western Ottawa-Carleton.

*Celtis occidentalis*. This tree is relatively common in flood plain forests east of Parliament Hill (S.J. Darbyshire. 1981. *Trail & Landscape* 15(3): 133-139 and references therein).

*Boehmeria cylindrica*. This nettle is a common plant in flood plain forests along the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers.

*Polygonum cuspidatum*. This ornamental shrub is becoming more common in the Ottawa area in disturbed sites and is also commonly planted.

*Sagina procumbens*. This is a rather rare garden weed which I found naturalized on a sandy beach near Rockland. It is rare in Ontario (Argus and White 1977).

*Menispermum canadense*. This vine is common in flood plain forests of the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers.

*Apis americana*. This member of the bean family is relatively common in flood plain forests of the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers.

*Ailanthes altissima*. This small tree is a rare escape from cultivation in the Ottawa area, but it is now the most common tree in downtown Toronto. In southwestern Ontario the preferred habitat of this tree is in cities, growing immediately adjacent to buildings. The winters are likely too cold in Ottawa for it to become well established, but time will tell.

\**Aesculus hippocastanum* L. Horse Chestnut. This tree has been planted around the city, and I know of a single naturalized sapling in the woods of Rockcliffe Park. It may survive in other sheltered locations.

*Rhamnus frangula*. This European shrub is most common in disturbed woodlots. It is becoming a serious weed in our forests.

*Shepherdia canadensis*. This small shrub is relatively common along the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers, but it rarely occurs in large numbers. It is more common in Ontario than in Quebec. It prefers well drained calcareous sites in our area such as rocky slopes and fields, and clay banks.

*Myriophyllum spicatum*. This European aquatic weed grows in thick colonies in calm waters along the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers. Now it is well established in the popular boating lakes in

our area, such as Lac Philippe. It is easily introduced into lakes when fragments carried on boats and their motors are put into a lake.

*Lysimachia nummularia*. This is a popular garden plant that is now a common adventive in disturbed woods and thickets, particularly in clay soils around the city of Ottawa.

*Apocynum cannabinum*. This is a relatively common plant in rocky limestone areas along the Ottawa River.

*Gerardia purpurea* and *G. tenuifolia*. Both these plants are locally common in open sandy areas, particularly if the site is moist in the late summer. Both are more common in Ontario than in Quebec.

*Helenium autumnale*. This species is localized in the western half of the area where the soils are lighter and sandier.

*Helianthus giganteus*. I have found no trace of this plant at McKay Lake, site of an old collection.

*Hieracium vulgatum*. This is locally common in the rocky limestone woods and thickets around Governor Bay in Rockcliffe Park Village.

*Senecio vulgaris*. This is becoming a common weed around the cities of Ottawa and Hull.

In addition to the species in the above list, there are at least four species of trees which have been planted by the Ministry of Natural Resources in our area in its attempts to find a fast growing crop. Although these species have not become naturalized yet, they may well naturalize in the years to come due to the persistent efforts of the Ministry. These trees are

- \**Larix decidua* Mill. European Larch.
- \**L. leptolepis* Gord. Japanese Larch.
- \**Picea abies* Karst. Norway Spruce.
- \**Pinus nigra* Arnold. Austrian Pine.

#### *Literature Cited*

Argus, G.W. and D.J. White. 1977. *The rare vascular plants of Ontario*. Syllogeus No. 14. National Museum of Natural Sciences.

Dickson, J.L. and S.J. Darbyshire. 1979. *Biological inventories of 24 areas in the Ottawa District*. National Capital Commission.

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## Bus Trip to Presqu'ile

Val Bernard Ladouceur and Bruce M. Di Labio

The Club's annual early spring bus trip to Presqu'ile Park was on April 4th this year. A busload of keen observers, including tour leader, Bruce Di Labio, left Carlingwood Shopping Centre at 6:30 a.m. for the park, which is approximately 280 km southwest of Ottawa on Lake Ontario.

The weather was overcast with snow squalls - extremely depressing weather. On the way down, the party observed two Turkey Vultures and a number of Red-tailed Hawks. There was a brief stop for coffee on the way, and the bus arrived at the park at about 10 a.m.

Despite the miserable stormy weather, the dedicated group managed to get excellent views of 18 species of ducks at Presqu'ile Bay, including 30 Canvasback and 60 Oldsquaw. Nearby, the group had close looks at both species of Kinglets. Then the party moved on to the museum and lighthouse area and had Winter Wren, Rusty Blackbird and a Bonaparte's Gull - the earliest record for the park. Lunch was at the lighthouse, from which thirty to forty American Robins were observed in a reverse migration.

Next stop was Marsh Nature Trail where few birds were seen with the cold and windy conditions. The tour went home by way of the Thousand Islands Parkway, arriving in Ottawa about 6 p.m.

The trip was somewhat disappointing since in other years one could expect to see 1500 Canvasbacks, and so forth, and the weather was ugly. However, the dedication of the participants was much appreciated by leader, Bruce Di Labio, and that effort made the day at least a small success.

In closing we would like to inform people that R.D. McRae's book, *Birds of Presqu'ile Ontario*, is now available. The publication has 72 pages and covers the 299 species which have been recorded in the park. It outlines the topography of the area from a birder's point of view.

Send a \$3.00 money order (no cheques please) to

Presqu'ile Provincial Park  
R.R. #4  
Brighton, Ontario  
KOK 1HO

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# N.C.C. Activities

## MER BLEUE INTERPRETATION CENTRE

Fall is a time of anticipation, a time when nature is truly bountiful. For many a small creature, this bounty is crucial to the survival of the cold months ahead. The naturalists at the Mer Bleue Interpretation Centre on the Dolman Ridge invite you to participate in the following programs this fall.

The centre will be open each Sunday from September 26 to October 31, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Programs begin at 1 p.m. in English and 2:30 p.m. in French; beginning October 10, the presentations will be followed by workshops for the whole family.

September 26 *Fall Flowers*, a slide show and guided walk.

October 3 *Mushrooms*, a slide show and guided walk with guest interpreter, Andrée Juneau.

October 10 *Fall Colours*, a guided walk.

October 17 *Bird Migration*, in cooperation with the Canadian Wildlife Service, including bird banding, displays and a slide show.

October 24 *Seeds, the Key to Survival*, a guided walk.

October 31 *The River Drive*, a demonstration of a model timber slide followed by a tour of the Mer Bleue logging exhibit and then the film *White Water Men of the Coulonge*.

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## Science Focus

Presentations on the theme *How Society Benefits from the Life Sciences* are being planned for October and will include several informal, illustrated talks at Carleton University:

Wednesday, October 20 *Shorebird Conservation in North and South America* by Guy Morrison.

Thursday, October 21 *Toxic Substances and Contaminants as Indicators of Environmental Quality*

Friday, October 22 *Preservation of Wetlands and the Value of Wetlands* by Gary McCullough, Ted Mosquin and Joyce Reddoch.

Saturday, October 23 *Bats* by Brock Fenton.

Many other programs are being prepared; check newspaper advertisements in October for more complete information.

# Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee  
Paul Catling (996-1665), Chairman

Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader.

## WEST END BIRD WALKS TO SEE BIRDS IN FALL MIGRATION

<u>Date and Time</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Saturday, 25 September 7:00 a.m.	Stephen O'Donnell (722-3050)
Sunday, 3 October 7:30 a.m.	Bob Bracken (728-3495)

Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue. Bring waterproof footwear and binoculars.

Tuesday 14 September 8:00 p.m.	OFNC MONTHLY MEETING MEMBERS' SLIDE NIGHT Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets Bring slides which you have taken either locally - Club outing or otherwise - or on a trip, and see them projected on the large screen. Any number up to 15 slides per person is welcome, and you may have up to 15 minutes to talk about them and your special interests and experience. Contact Paul Catling (996-1665) to prearrange your presentation.
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Saturday 18 September 8:00 a.m.	ANNUAL PICNIC: BUS TRIP TO PALMERSTON-CANONTO LAKES CONSERVATION AREA Meet: National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets, east parking lot Cost: None The drive to this area near Ompah takes you through one of the loveliest parts of Lanark County and into northern Frontenac County. Located between
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the two lakes, the park has a variety of habitats. The gentle path follows the mountain stream between the two lakes, and trails lead to lookouts which give magnificent views of the autumn colours of the surrounding countryside. The adjacent woods and beaver pond are a delight for bird watchers and botanists, as are the rocky outcrops for geologists. There are trails for those who enjoy an easy walk, with benches located just where needed for a rest, and a longer, more rugged trail to the second lookout for the more energetic. The picnic area is situated in a pleasant grove with a western view across Palmerston Lake where, with luck, you may see loons, grebes and herons. This year, in keeping with tradition, there will be cheddar cheese and apples to augment the participants' picnic lunches.

To register, telephone 722-3050 (after 10 a.m.) at least one week in advance of the trip. Acceptance will be on a first come first served basis. The Museum's Dinobus will be provided, free of charge, for transportation.

Sunday 19 September 9:00 a.m. A FERN IDENTIFICATION FIELD TRIP  
Leader: Bill Arthurs  
Meet: National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets, east parking lot  
Cost: None  
This is a general interest, all day outing with an emphasis on identifying some of our local ferns. Members of the photography group are encouraged to take part. It is planned to include stops at the Larose Forest and Baxter Conservation Centre. Please bring a lunch.  
To register, telephone Bill Arthurs at 234-3000 (working hours) or 225-6941 (evenings) at least one week in advance of the trip. Only the first 36 to register can be accepted on the Dinobus, which will be provided, free of charge, by the National Museum of Natural Sciences.

Tuesday            OFNC MONTHLY MEETING  
12 October        THE OFNC EXCURSION TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO  
8:00 p.m.          Speakers: Roger Taylor and tour participants  
                    Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural  
                    Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets  
We have already read in the last issue of *Trail & Landscape* about this first overseas excursion of the Club. Now we can see the birds, flowers and countryside on slides and can hear about it in verbal commentary.

Sunday            FIFTH ANNUAL JOINT OUTING WITH THE OTTAWA RIDEAU  
17 October        TRAIL CLUB: BUS TRIP TO PERTH WILDLIFE RESERVE  
9:00 a.m.          AND MILL POND CONSERVATION AREA  
                    Meet: National Museum of Natural Sciences,  
                    Metcalfe and McLeod Streets,  
                    east parking lot  
Cost: None  
The Perth Wildlife Reserve is geared as a Wildlife Management Demonstration Area, employing improvement of habitat for birds to create variety. Carson Thompson, the manager, will lead a tour of the Reserve, after which he will take us to the Mill Pond Conservation Area, which features a variety of habitats. There are interesting trees, as well as a sugar bush. Bring a lunch. For further information, call Eileen Evans (741-0789). To register, telephone 722-3050 (after 10 a.m.) at least one week in advance of the trip. Call early to reserve a seat on the Dinobus, which will be provided free of charge by the National Museum of Natural Sciences.

Saturday          BIRDING AT SHIRLEYS BAY  
23 October        Leader: Bruce Di Labio (729-6267)  
8:00 a.m.          Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue  
Waterfowl is the primary objective at this time of the year. In addition to the dyke to Haycock Island, the participants can visit the ponds west of the Connaught Rifle Ranges, through the courtesy of the Ottawa Duck Club. Bring waterproof footwear and binoculars.

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DEADLINE: Material intended for the November-December issue must be in the Editor's hands before 1st October.

